

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247176
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CU-04 /085 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JKORNBLUM
APPROVED BY EUR:JGOODBY
EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
H:RPUGH
C:RHOPPER
D:SOXMAN (INFO)
NSC: AARON
S/S-O: RPERITO
EUR/P:WGEHRON

-----032961 150252Z /12

O 150232Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 247176

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, UR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT ON BELGRADE
CONFERENCE

1. CONGRESSMAN JAMES M. JEFFORDS (R, VERMONT) HAS
CIRCULATED IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE A LETTER
TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CONTINUING
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND ASKS THAT
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HUMAN RIGHTS BE MADE A "CENTRAL ISSUE" IN THE BELGRADE
MEETING. ACCORDING TO JEFFORDS' STAFF, THE LETTER WILL
BEAR THE SIGNATURE OF APPROXIMATELY 25 SENATORS AND
110 REPRESENTATIVES. JEFFORDS PLANS TO SEND IT TO THE
PRESIDENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 14. COPIES WILL
ALSO BE SENT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND THROUGH
THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO THE GINZBURG GROUP IN MOSCOW.

2. THE INITIATIVE FOR THE LETTER APPARENTLY CAME AFTER ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN WROTE JEFFORDS URGING JEFFORDS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IMPRISONED DISSIDENT ALEXANDER GINSBURG. JEFFORDS' STAFF HAS ASSURED THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE INITIATIVE IN NO WAY SUGGESTS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE US POSITION AT BELGRADE UP UNTIL NOW.

IT IS HOPED THAT BY PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, THE LETTER WILL STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF OUR DELEGATION.

3. DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO RESPOND TO PRESS QUERIES ABOUT THE LETTER BY STATING THAT WE TOO ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AND THAT AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG AND OTHER US REPRESENTATIVES INTEND TO PURSUE VIGOROUSLY THE TYPES OF CONCERNS MENTIONED IN THE LETTER.

4. TEXT OF LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S CAMPAIGN TO CRUSH POLITICAL DISSENT IS AN ISSUE WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, POSES A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO OUR COUNTRY IN THE OPENING WEEKS OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.
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WE ARE WRITING TO EXPRESS OUR STRONG CONCERN, AND TO URGE THAT YOU AND YOUR ABLE REPRESENTATIVE, ARTHUR GOLDBERG, MAKE HUMAN RIGHTS A CENTRAL ISSUE IN THE TALKS.

ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS TESTING OUR COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO ASSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. THE BASIC STRATEGY IS NOW CLEAR: PROMINENT DISSIDENTS ARE CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL OFFENSES. THEIR FRIENDS AND FELLOW DISSIDENTS ARE FORCIBLY COERCED INTO FALSELY TESTIFYING AGAINST THEM. THEY CAN THEN BE TREATED AS COMMON CRIMINALS, AND SENTENCED TO DEATH OR OTHER EXTREME FORMS OF PUNISHMENT. BY DESTROYING ALEXANDER GINZBURG AND OTHER KEY LEADERS OF THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN THIS MANNER, THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY HOPE TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE MOVEMENT. ALEXANDER GINZBURG'S MOTHER RECENTLY DESCRIBED HER FAMILY'S PLIGHT AS FOLLOWS:

". . . WE ARE DEPRIVED OF ALL RIGHTS, HELPLESS AGAINST SLANDER, LIES AND VIOLENCE. KGB OFFICIALS GRIN CYNICALLY WHILE OPENLY STATING THAT DEATH IS WHAT AWAITS MY SON AND

HIS FRIENDS IF THEY DO NOT FOLLOW YAKIR'S EXAMPLE."

THIS IS NOT AN UNFOUNDED FEAR. THE ACCURACY OF LUDMILA GINZBURG'S GRIM ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY NUMEROUS EVENTS AND NUMEROUS DOCUMENTS.

THERE IS EVERY REASON TO FEAR FOR ALEXANDER GINZBURG'S LIFE, AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO FEAR FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL DISSENT WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION.

THE STAKES ARE EXTREMELY HIGH, EXTENDING BEYOND THE PLIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL RUSSIAN DISSIDENTS. IF THE SOVIETS ARE ALLOWED TO BLATANTLY VIOLATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, THE CREDIBILITY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AGREEMENT, AND ANY OTHER BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, COULD BE UNDERMINED. WE URGE THE DELEGATION TO PRESS THIS POINT IN AS FORCEFUL A MANNER AS POSSIBLE IN CLOSED AS WELL AS OPEN SESSION. IF THE CURRENT TALKS ARE TO BE MEANINGFUL, THE ISSUE OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF MR. GINZBURG AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP MUST BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY.

WE ARE SURE THAT YOU SHARE OUR DEEP CONCERN, AND TRUST THAT THE US WILL RESPOND IN AN EFFECTIVE AND CREDIBLE MANNER TO THE APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS.

END TEXT.

5. IN ADDITION, CONGRESSMAN JEFFORDS HAS ASKED THAT THE FOLLOWING LETTER BE TRANSMITTED TO AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG:

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. JUSTICE: WITHIN A FEW DAYS, A LETTER WILL BE SENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER, SIGNED BY A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE, EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERNS ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION, AND URGING A POSITION AT BELGRADE WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT CONCERN.

BECAUSE OF THE TIMELINESS OF THIS MATTER, AND ON THE ADVICE OF BEN GILMAN, I WISH TO ALERT YOU TO THIS EFFORT IN ADVANCE. THE LETTER HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED BY OVER 50 HOUSE MEMBERS AND SEVERAL SENATORS, AND CONSIDERABLY MORE SIGNATURES ARE ANTICIPATED WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF DAYS. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I HAVE ENCLOSED A COPY
OF THE TEXT OF THE LETTER, AND SOME OF THE MATERIALS
DISTRIBUTED IN THE HOUSE IN THE EFFORT TO OBTAIN SIGNA-
TURES. I HOPE THESE MATERIALS WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOUR
UNDERSTANDING OF OUR INTENT. WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY
TO IMPEDE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. OUR HOPE IS THAT
THIS EXPRESSION OF STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT WILL

BE A USEFUL SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR THE POSITIONS YOU EXPRESS
AT BELGRADE.

YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

END TEXT.

6. ORIGINAL OF LETTER AND BACKGROUND MATERIALS HAVE
BEEN SENT TO BELGRADE BY POUCH.

VANCE

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:JKORNBLUM

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:WSHINN, JR.

-----027410 201916Z /40

R 200355Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 247176

FOLLOWING SECSTATE 247176 SENT ACTIONBELGRADE OCT 15, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, UR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT ON BELGRADE
CONFERENCE

1. CONGRESSMAN JAMES M. JEFFORDS (R, VERMONT) HAS CIRCULATED IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND ASKS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS BE MADE A "CENTRAL ISSUE" IN THE BELGRADE MEETING. ACCORDING TO JEFFORDS' STAFF, THE LETTER WILL BEAR THE SIGNATURE OF APPROXIMATELY 25 SENATORS AND 110 REPRESENTATIVES. JEFFORDS PLANS TO SEND IT TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 14. COPIES WILL ALSO BE SENT TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AND THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO THE GINZBURG GROUP IN MOSCOW.

2. THE INITIATIVE FOR THE LETTER APPARENTLY CAME AFTER ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN WROTE JEFFORDS URGING JEFFORDS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IMPRISONED DISSIDENT ALEXANDER GINSBURG. JEFFORDS' STAFF HAS ASSURED THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE INITIATIVE IN NO WAY SUGGESTS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE US POSITION AT BELGRADE UP UNTIL NOW.

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ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS TESTING OUR COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO ASSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. THE BASIC STRATEGY IS NOW CLEAR: PROMINENT DISSIDENTS ARE CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL OFFENSES. THEIR FRIENDS AND FELLOW DISSIDENTS ARE FORCIBLY COERCED INTO FALSELY TESTIFYING AGAINST THEM. THEY CAN THEN BE TREATED AS COMMON CRIMINALS, AND SENTENCED TO DEATH OR OTHER EXTREME FORMS OF PUNISHMENT. BY DESTROYING ALEXANDER GINZBURG AND OTHER KEY LEADERS OF THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN THIS MANNER, THE SOVIETS APPARENTLY HOPE TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE MOVEMENT. ALEXANDER GINZBURG'S MOTHER RECENTLY DESCRIBED HER FAMILY'S PLIGHT AS FOLLOWS:

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TALKS ARE TO BE MEANINGFUL, THE ISSUE OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF MR. GINZBURG AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HELSINKI

MONITORING GROUP MUST BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY.

WE ARE SURE THAT YOU SHARE OUR DEEP CONCERN, AND TRUST THAT THE US WILL RESPOND IN AN EFFECTIVE AND CREDIBLE MANNER TO THE APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS.

END TEXT.

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BEGIN TEXT:

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UNDERSTANDING OF OUR INTENT. WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO IMPEDE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. OUR HOPE IS THAT THIS EXPRESSION OF STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SENTIMENT WILL

BE A USEFUL SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR THE POSITIONS YOU EXPRESS AT BELGRADE.

YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

END TEXT.

6. ORIGINAL OF LETTER AND BACKGROUND MATERIALS HAVE BEEN SENT TO BELGRADE BY POUCH. VANCE UNQUOTE
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE MAIL, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE247176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKORNBLUM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770378-0425
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771057/aaaabwbc.tel
Line Count: 383
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 99c1c02e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 906799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT ON BELGRADE CONFERENCE
TAGS: PPDC, CSCE, (CARTER, JIMMY), (JEFFORDS, JAMES M)
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99c1c02e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009